

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5763

S E C R E T AMMAN 6491

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, JO, US

SUBJECT: TALK WITH KING - HAWK MISSILES

1. FOLLOWING KING'S RETURN FROM SYRIA, HAD OPPORTUNITY FOR EXTENDED DISCUSSION. ONE MAJOR TOPIC COVERED HAWKS.

2. KING OBVIOUSLY PLEASED THAT DEAL HAS BONE THROUGH, BUT FEELING SCARRED BY PROCEEDINGS. HE NOTED THAT IT WAS MOST DIFFICULT PERIOD IN OUR LONG RELATIONSHIP AND HE IS HAPPY THAT ARRANGEMENT HAS BEEN WORKED OUT.

3. I TOOK OPPORTUNITY, AS I HAD WITH RIFAI EARLIER THIS WEEK, TO TELL

HIM THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN AN EASY EXPERIENCE IN WASHINGTON AND THAT A GREAT DEAL OF EFFORT WAS PUT INTO WORKING THINGS OUT WITH THE CONGRESS. HE SAID THAT HE APPRECIATED ALL OF THE EFFORTS THAT EVERYONE HAD PUT INTO THE PROJECT. I CONTINUED THAT OVER THE LONG RUN, I HOPED THAT HE AND ALL JORDANIANS TOOK A LONG VIEW OF WHAT HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. MORE IMPORTANT TO ALL OF US THAN THE TACTICS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS ASPECTS WAS THE FACT THAT JORDAN WAS GETTING ITS FOURTEEN BATTERIES AND THAT ALL OF THE EQUIPMENT CONTAINED IN THE LETTER OF OFFER WAS GOING TO BE INCLUDED. HON HIS SIDE, THE CONTRACT WOULD BE A STANDARD ARRANGEMENT. THE EFFORT IN CONGRESS HAD BACKED A LONG WAY FROM THEIR INITIAL POSITION OF INSISTING THAT JORDAN SHOULD ONLY HAVE THREE OR SIX BATTERIES. TO MY KNOWLEDGE THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT THIS KING OF A LOBBY OPERATION,

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WITH ALL OF THE FORCE WHICH WAS APPARENTLY BEHIND IT, HAD BACKED

AWAY SO SIGNIFICANTLY FROM A CONGRESSIONAL MEASURE IT WAS PUSHING.
IT SAID A LOT ABOUT JORDAN'S POSITION AND THE RESPECT IN WHICH HE
WAS HELD IN THE US.

4. WE THEN TALKED ABOUT WHAT COMES NEXT. HE MADE IT CLEAR HE
WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO GET STARTED ON THE LETTER OF OFFER AND THE
DELIVERY SCHEDULE QUESTION. I SAID I HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH
WASHINGTON WITH SUGGESTIONS ON THESE QUESTIONS AND VERY MUCH HOPED
TO HAVE AN ANSWER FOR HIM SOON.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: FORWARD LETTER OF OFFER BY MOST EXPEDIENT
MEANS AS SUGGESTED AND PROVIDE US WITH INSTRUCTIONS ON HANDLING DELI-
VERY SCHEDULE ISSUE.
PICKERING

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